

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed October 4, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 4 – 11, 14 – 21 and 24 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1, 4 – 8, 11, 14, 16 – 18, 21 and 24, and has canceled claims 2, 3, 12, 13, 22 and 23 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 2, 3, 12, 13, 22 and 23 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 3 – 8, 13 – 18 and 23 – 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent format including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As set forth above, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations previously recited in claim 3, has amended claim 11 to include the limitations previously recited in claim 13, and has amended claim 21 to include the limitations previously recited in claim 23. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 11 and 21 are in condition for allowance. Additionally, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 4 – 10 (which depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1), claims 14 – 20 (which depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 11), and claim 24 (which depends from and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 21) also are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 2, 9 – 12 and 19 - 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Hohensee*. With respect to claims 2, 12 and 22, Applicant has canceled these claims and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations previously recited in claim 3 (the allowability of which is set forth in the Action), and has amended claim 11 to include the limitations previously recited in claim 13 (the allowability of which is set forth in the Action). Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 11 and 21 are in condition for allowance. Since claims 9 and 10 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1, and claims 19 and 20 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 11, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance for at least this reason.


Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

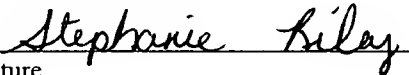
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 11/4/05.



Signature